



**Arkansas
Department of
Human Services**

**Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive
Systems Initiative (AECCS)**



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF

Health

Keeping Your Hometown Healthy

**"Building Bridges----
From Birth To School"**



Social-Emotional Health Work Group

An increasing number of young children are not developing the emotional skills that they will need to succeed in school and be productive members of society. In order to achieve national goals of school readiness for all children, strategic attention must be focused on the early social, emotional and behavioral challenges as well as cognitive and physical development.

Purpose:

The Social-Emotional Health Work Group is strengthening the foundation for a collaborative system to link mental health and early childhood concerns. It is working to expand the competency and capacity of early childhood and mental health professionals to recognize and understand social-emotional needs of young children.

Membership:

The Social-Emotional Health Work Group brings together child care professionals, perinatal and pediatric providers, higher education, early intervention, parent education, community mental health center and clinicians, health department, parents, local business concerns, government agency staff and advocacy organizations.

Key Work Group Objectives:

- Increase public awareness.
- Explore new ways to strengthen the caregiver/child relationship, and relationships among early childhood providers, mental health professionals, young children and their parents.
- Focus on prevention and early intervention to better meet the mental health needs of young children and their families
- Facilitate professional development training opportunities for mental health and early childhood providers.
- Develop the capacity for expanded resources and the future workforce.